



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief October 2021



Operational Context

Zimbabwe is a land-locked, lower-middle income, food-deficit country. Over the last decade, it has experienced several economic and environmental shocks that have contributed to high food insecurity and malnutrition. At least 16 percent of its population live in extreme poverty and it is estimated that 5.3 million people across rural and urban areas are food insecure – many impacted by the effects of climate change, protracted economic instability and COVID-19.

Drought is the most significant climate-related risk. Frequent occurrence has significant consequences on livelihoods and food security. About 70 percent of the population is dependent on rain-fed farming, while most farmers are smallholders with low productivity. This past year and upcoming lean season are predicted to produce better harvest results – following good rainfall. However, despite a bumper harvest, the compounding circumstances continue to impact people most vulnerable to shocks – with growing needs in urban areas.

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Population: **15.6 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **150 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **24% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

4,769 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 3.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$65 m next six months (December 2021-May 2022) net funding requirements

801,819 m people assisted
In October 2021

Operational Updates

- Lean season distributions started in October, implemented through a network of eight NGO partners. In October and November, WFP will assist 432,000 people in 10 districts. As the lean season approaches its peak, WFP will scale-up its assistance to include more vulnerable Zimbabweans in rural areas across 12 districts.
- To complement emergency cash-based transfer assistance, WFP supports urban communities through sustainable resilience, livelihood creation and socio-economic empowerment activities. The pilot, which ran throughout the first three quarters of 2021, targeted 30,000 beneficiaries of cash-based assistance. As of October 2021, with support from the US Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (US BHA), the programme is scaling-up to reach 180,000 people across 19 domains, through hydroponic urban farming, development of food and non-food value chains and training youth on information technologies and other digital skills. Under the urban programme, WFP reached 297,317 people in October. Cash-based transfers are provided to address immediate food needs, while participation in resilience-building activities will improve long-term food security.
- WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW), to support the finalisation of their Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework to be able to report against the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) indicators and to initiate the technical working groups -social assistance & livelihoods, social insurance and labour market interventions-, which will coordinate government and development partner interventions.
- In collaboration with Agritex, 8,844 smallholder farmers were registered across five districts, to participate in WFP's Smallholder Agriculture and Markets Support Programme. This initiative creates stable demand, promotes inclusive aggregation systems and supports households.

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Image: *Hydroponic farming in Gweru.* WFP/Tatenda Macheke

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
227.9m	78m	65m

Strategic Result 1: Basic food needs of vulnerable populations are met.

Strategic Outcome 1 Food-insecure people, including refugees, in the most affected districts are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during severe seasonal shocks or other disruptions.

- Activities:**
- Cash/food transfers to households affected by seasonal food shortages.
 - Unconditional food/cash transfers and livelihood support to refugees

Strategic Result 2: Child stunting rates in line with national/global targets.

Strategic Outcome 2: Children in prioritized districts have stunting rate trends in line with the achievement of national and global targets by 2025.

- Activities:**
- Build evidence for nutrition advocacy, policy direction and programme decision-making.
 - Support the Government’s nutrition programming at the national and sub-national levels.

Strategic Result 3: Increased access to markets.

Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have increased access to well-functioning agricultural markets by 2030.

- Activities:**
- Support the development of an efficient local food marketing and procurement mechanism.
 - Enable farmer organizations to aggregate and market surplus production.

Strategic Result 4: Food security and resilience to seasonal shocks.

Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure rural households and smallholder farmers achieve food security and resilience to repeated exposure to multiple shocks and stressors.

- Activities:**
- Support the creation and rehabilitation of assets for sustainable food and nutrition security.
 - Enhance the capacity of prioritized districts to plan and manage resilience-building.

Strategic Result 5: Vulnerable peoples basic needs met all year round.

Strategic Outcome 5: The social protection system ensures that chronically vulnerable populations throughout the country are able to meet their basic needs all year round.

- Activities:**
- Support innovative risk management, insurance and financing mechanisms.
 - Provide analytical expertise to support the evidence-based planning.

Strategic Result 6: Partnerships and supply chain.

Strategic Outcome 5: Partners in Zimbabwe are reliably supported by world-class, cost-effective and efficient supply chain services.

- Activities:**
- Provide logistics and procurement expertise and services.

Evidence generation & research

- WFP supports the Food & Nutrition Council (FNC) in updating the 60 rural district risk profiles to more accurately identify and address the dynamic developmental and humanitarian programmatic needs in rural areas of the country. The FNC will coordinate Government stakeholders, UN agencies and NGO participants for this exercise.
- Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) consultations were held in Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe (UMP) rural and Hwange urban districts, together with the Government, NGOs, academia and communities. For the UMP rural SLP, two visiting missions comprising of two Professors from the University of Nairobi (Kenya) and two from the University and Government of Eswatini, attended the workshop as part of their induction and capacity building. These exchanges fall under WFP’s efforts to strengthen South-South Cooperation and regional solidarity.
- A study to upgrade the services provided at Maternity Waiting Homes (MWHs) programme is ongoing. The study aims to identify how best to integrate and strengthen nutrition services with existing government programmes through the MWHs as a platform to explore innovative ways of sustainable nutrition interventions. It will align with national priorities and programmes and provide evidence on how to strengthen outcomes.

Challenges

- WFP currently reaches 326,000 vulnerable people in urban areas, representing only 13 percent of the people in need. There are major funding constraints to continue delivering cash-based assistance to this group and WFP will have to reduce its caseload in the first quarter of 2022 to stretch the limited available resources. USD 31 million are needed to maintain assistance to this extremely vulnerable population over the next six months. Unless funding becomes available, the urban cash-based assistance programme, which is a lifeline to many, will be suspended in April.
- Emergency food assistance to refugees in Tongogara camp will experience a pipeline break starting May 2022. WFP is actively engaging with donors to continue providing support to the 15,000 refugees living in Zimbabwe. A total of USD 292,000 per month are required to maintain the current caseload between December 2021 and May 2022.

Donors

Canada, China Aid, Danida, EU-ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Green Climate Fund, IFAD, India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Irish Aid, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein Development Service, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norad, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN-CERF, UK FCDO, US BHA, World Bank.